



Washington State Department of **CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES**

Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) Meeting
Dec. 6, 2022

State Agency and Partner Updates

Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) Updates

Fair Start for Kids Act | Temporary Licensing Subcommittee

The TLS met on Oct. 19 to reviewed the final recommendations to be submitted in the Recommendation Report. Following the meeting, the final draft of the recommendation report was distributed to members, in addition to ELAC and PS. On Nov. 9, the final TLS meeting was held. The entire recommendation report, including the 37 recommendations were reviewed by the participants. The report has been submitted to Government Affairs for an internal division review, prior to being submitted to the legislature/governor.

DCYF Complex Needs Training Series

DCYF is offering training to support childcare workers who care for children with complex needs. These trainings will be facilitated by the University of Washington (UW) Haring Center and focus on deepening the provider's knowledge in several areas related to individualizing instruction and supporting social-emotional learning. Register [here](#).

Home Visiting Programs Expanded

DCYF announced a general home visiting expansion, as well as a tribal home visiting expansion, increasing the number of families served by approximately 350 in total.

Request for Application for ECEAP Expansion Released

The Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) has released the Comprehensive Early Learning Services Request for Application (RFA) for ECEAP, B-3, and ECLIPSE Expansion for 2023-2024. On Nov. 28, 2022, the Comprehensive Early Learning Services RFA was released and is open to current and potential ECEAP contractors. Preliminary Applications are due by Jan. 20, 2023. Services Applications are due by March 20, 2023. All RFA materials can be found on [DCYF's ECEAP Expansion website](#). For questions about the RFA process, please email the ECEAP Expansion RFA coordinators at dcyf.eceap@dcyf.wa.gov.

Additional State Agency/Partner Updates

Department of Social and Health Services

For more information, please contact Tarimah Williams at Tarimah.Williams@dshs.wa.gov.

No updates to share at this time

Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)

For more information, please contact Ryan Guzman at Ryan.Guzman@k12.wa.us

OSPI's Special Education Updates:

- [November 2022 Special Education Update \(govdelivery.com\)](https://govdelivery.com)
- [November 2022 Early Childhood Special Education Updates \(www.k12.wa.us\)](http://www.k12.wa.us)

Department of Health (DOH)

For more information, please contact Astrid Newell and Angie Funaiole at

astrid.newell@doh.wa.gov and angie.funaiole@doh.wa.gov

CYSHCN program welcomes Linda Ramirez

The CYSHCN program is excited to welcome our new Communications and Early Childhood Consultant, Linda Ramirez. Linda will be helping to coordinate our communications for the CYSHCN program and will provide an initial point of contact for partners with questions about the program to get directed to the appropriate staff person. She will also be the lead CYSHCN staff participating in early childhood systems work including Early Childhood Coordinated Systems and Essentials for Childhood. You can reach Linda at linda.ramirez@doh.wa.gov.

Now Available! [Birth Equity Project Request for Applications.](#)

The DOH Birth Equity Project funding seeks to address and reduce the racism faced by birth workers and families of Black/African American, African Immigrants, American Indian/Alaska Native, and Pacific Islander communities across Washington state. The Request for Applications is open until **Monday, December 19th, 8:00 a.m.**, and grantees will be announced in early 2023. For any questions, please reach out to [Caroline Sedano](#).

Strong Start, Washington State's Universal Developmental Screening System

Early and consistent developmental screening is particularly important in light of the pandemic's potential impact on normal development. Children and families are emerging from the pandemic and its resulting isolation, disrupted routines, and limited access to early care. Well-child visits may have been missed, and childcare or preschool interrupted. And many families and providers do not have the most recent information on a child's developmental screening history. While developmental screenings are taking place in various settings throughout the state, until now there has been no centralized statewide system for tracking them. In collaboration with state and local partners, DOH developed a new statewide data system, **Strong Start**.

Strong Start is a free, secure system that allows healthcare providers and parents or legal guardians to enter and access screening information in one place. Parents can share information entered in Strong Start with childcare and early learning providers, which can be helpful in planning how to best support their child's development. Strong Start is just one part of a larger initiative to increase early childhood screening rates and access to supportive services.

The Strong Start data system is currently in a soft launch phase where several partners are helping test it ahead of a statewide rollout in 2023. The new system will track developmental screening in children from birth to age 5. It will be accessible to parents, guardians, and licensed health care professionals. Future versions will expand access to include early childhood partners.

To learn more about the system, the soft launch, and Universal Developmental Screening resources, visit the [DOH Strong Start website](#) or contact [UDS Program Manager Marilyn Dold](#).

Department of Veterans Affairs (WVA)

For more information please contact Olivia Burley at Olivia.burley@dva.wa.gov

The Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs organizes the Washington State Military Child Care Workgroup which meets quarterly virtually. The Workgroup is publishing a report on military child care in Washington. For more information about the workgroup or report, please contact Olivia Burley, Washington State Military Spouse Liaison at olivia.burley@dva.wa.gov.

In February 2022, the Department of Defense expanded its child care subsidy program for military families to include providers in Early Achievers in Washington. Providers interested in participating, can visit: <https://www.childcareaware.org/becoming-an-approved-mccyn-plus-provider-in-washington/>.